

NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Office of Archives and History
Department of Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Robeson County Agricultural Building

Lumberton, Robeson County, RB0652, Listed mm/dd/2012

Nomination by Beth Keane

Photographs by Beth Keane, September 2010



Façade view



Side and rear view

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of property

historic name Robeson County Agricultural Building

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 108 West Eighth Street not for publication N/A

city or town Lumberton vicinity N/A

state North Carolina code NC county Robeson code 155 zip code 28358

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide X locally. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
_____ entered in the National Register	_____	_____
_____ See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
_____ determined eligible for the	_____	_____
_____ National Register	_____	_____
_____ See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
_____ determined not eligible for the	_____	_____
_____ National Register	_____	_____
_____ removed from the National Register	_____	_____
_____ other (explain): _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Robeson County Agricultural Building
Name of Property

Robeson County, NC
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

☐ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: GOVERNMENT Sub: government office

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: GOVERNMENT Sub: government office

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick
roof asphalt
walls brick
other wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ B removed from its original location.

☐ C a birthplace or a grave.

☐ D a cemetery.

☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ F a commemorative property.

☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1937

Significant Dates

1937

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Weeks, Howard Raymond, architect
Atwood, Thomas C., architect/engineer

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing
1 17 682480 3832800
2

Zone Easting Northing
3
4
 See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Beth Keane

organization Retrospective date October, 2011

street & number 6073 Gold Creek Estates Drive telephone 828-328-8147

city or town Hickory state NC zip code 28601

12. Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Ricky Harris, Interim County Manager

street & number 701 North Elm Street telephone 910-671-3010

city or town Lumberton state NC zip code 28358

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Robeson County, NC

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The 1937 Robeson County Agricultural Building was a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project designed by Thomas C. Atwood and Howard Raymond Weeks in the Colonial Revival style. The two-story masonry building on a raised basement is located on the northwest corner of Elm and Eighth Streets, immediately north of Lumberton's Commercial Historic District (NR 1989). The T-shaped building sits on the southwest corner of the one-acre lot with the southern façade of the building fronting Eighth Street. A large parking lot occupies approximately one-half of the lot east of the building, and spans the area between Eighth and Ninth streets. Behind the building is a grassy lawn with several large, mature trees. The Agricultural Building is located in a transitional area of town with a mix of residential, commercial, and governmental buildings. The remainder of the block, west of the Agricultural Building, is comprised of Craftsman bungalows. Immediately across Eighth Street, opposite the Agricultural Building, is the modern Robeson County Health Department building.

The two-story-with-raised-basement brick Agricultural Building features a low-hipped roof and a seven-bay symmetrical façade. Distinctive details of the design include round-arched, eight-over-twelve, double-hung, sash windows with tracery and keystones at the first level, a classic Colonial Revival-style front entrance, a strong cornice line, and a centrally positioned half-round, louvered dormer on each elevation but the facade. The brick of the two-story main block of the building is laid in a modified Flemish bond pattern consisting of four rows of stretcher bricks and then one row of alternating stretcher and header bricks. The raised basement portion of the building, however, is laid in a full Flemish bond pattern.

The central Colonial Revival-style entrance is approached by seven concrete steps flanked on the west side by an iron railing. A handicapped ramp, added in 2006, is bordered by a low brick wall topped by an iron railing and is located east of the door, while a basement entrance is situated west of the door. The main entrance to the building was altered in 2001 with replacement double-leaf metal and glass doors surmounted by a single light glass transom. The original door surround, comprised of flanking wood pilasters with an open bed pediment over the arched window, was also replaced in 2001, with replacement pilasters, similar to the originals. The pediment was replaced with a gabled hood supported by triangular brackets. The original round-arched window with tracery and a keystone surmount the entrance. Iron lanterns are placed on either side of the entry.

Three four-pane basement windows flank either side of the central entrance. A row of projecting, angled bricks defines a water table that encircles the building. Six round-arched, eight-over-twelve, double-hung sash windows with tracery are featured at the first level—three on either side of the entrance. Seven eight-over-eight, double-hung, sash windows are symmetrically positioned at the second level. A brick stringcourse wraps the building level with

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the base of the second-level windows. Several windows at the first and second levels on each elevation of the building have had the lower four panes removed and replaced with a wood panel embedded with a centered air-conditioning unit. The hipped roof of the building has a shallow overhang and a wide wood cornice line.

A metal plaque is attached to the lower east corner of the façade that reads: “BUILT BY WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION OF NORTH CAROLINA IN COOPERATION WITH CITY AND COUNTY GOVERNMENTS, 1935-1937.” Three metal downspouts are also attached to the building’s façade.

The west elevation of the main block of the building features three basements windows with window wells, three round-arched, eight-over-twelve, double-hung, sash windows with tracery at the first level, and three eight-over-eight, double-hung, sash windows at the second level.

Fenestration on the north (rear) elevation of the building’s main block, on either side of the hipped-roof rear ell, is comprised of two basement level windows, one arched window and one small four-over-four window at the first level, and two eight-over-eight, double-hung, sash windows at the second level. Steps descend along the wall of the north elevation to a basement entrance located on the west wall of the rear ell. The stairwell is protected by an iron railing. The basement entrance features a six-panel wood door surmounted by a three-light transom.

Fenestration on the east elevation of the building’s main block includes three round-arched, eight-over-twelve, double-hung, sash windows with tracery at the first level and three eight-over-eight, double-hung, sash windows at the second level. In addition, centrally positioned concrete steps descend to a basement entrance that features double-leaf wood doors, each with one lower panel and eight upper lights. Iron railings flank the stairwell opening, as well as the steps.

The rear ell’s west elevation features a double-leaf wood door with upper lights approached by seven concrete steps with flanking iron railings. A transom with five vertical lights topped by a keystone surmounts the door. A tall chimney rising from the ground through the cornice is situated south of the door. A twelve-over-twelve, double-hung, sash window with a keystone is located south of the chimney, while two eight-over-eight, double-hung, sash windows are symmetrically arranged at the second level. In addition, a basement window is located south of the chimney.

The north (rear) elevation of the rear ell has two basement-level windows in wells, two twelve-over-twelve, double-hung, sash windows with keystones at the first level and two eight-over-eight, double-hung, sash windows at the second level. A metal fire-escape, supported by

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metal poles and brackets, rises along the north wall to a centered second-level entrance, formerly a window, comprised of a plain wood door. Two down spouts are positioned on either end of the elevation.

The east side of the rear ell has one basement window with well and a first-level entrance, approached by seven concrete steps, flanked by iron railings. The original door has been replaced with a double-leaf metal door while the original transom has been filled in with a metal panel. A twelve-over-twelve, double-hung, sash window with a keystone is located south of the door and two eight-over-eight, double-hung, sash windows are symmetrically positioned at the second level.

The building's interior maintains its original layout featuring a T-shaped plan with a transverse hall on each floor. The main entrance of the building opens into a spacious foyer at the first floor. The first floor plan of the main block consists of the front foyer and a transverse east-west hall with a central staircase that ascends from the rear of the central hall to a landing at the front of the building and then reverses direction. Office space is positioned on both sides of the transverse hall, while a large assembly room is located in the rear ell portion of the building.

The foyer and hall of the first level are defined by high ceilings, wide baseboards, flush, tongue-and-groove, vertical-board wainscot topped by a molded chair rail, and upper plaster walls. Carpeting conceals the original wood floors and a dropped ceiling composed of acoustical tiles covers the original ceiling, although wells in the ceiling tile allow for full-height window reveals. Several of the offices have been sheathed with vertical wood paneling and the southwest corner office has been outfitted as a kitchen. Office doors opening off the transverse hall have a single wood panel with eight upper lights and each door is surmounted by a three-light functional transom. The central dogleg stair features a handsome balustrade consisting of turned balusters and newel post, a molded handrail, and an open stringcourse with decorative carved molding.

A plaque hung near the front door reads: "Robeson County Agricultural Building, 1937, County Commissioners, Robert F. Stuart, Chairman; W. O. Thompson, C. A. Hasty, W. E. Graham, L. H. Townsend; E. K. Butler, County Manager; D. H. Fuller, Attorney; Eva W. Floyd, Clerk to Board."

Centrally located double-leaf doors with eight upper lights and a six-light hopper transom open into the large assembly room. The assembly room features tongue-and-groove vertical board wainscot, a wide baseboard and molded chair rail, and upper plaster walls. The floor is carpeted and the ceiling, consisting of acoustical tiles with boxed cross beams, has been lowered. Original cast-iron radiators remain in place throughout the building.

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The bathrooms are intact on the first floor – one on either side of the assembly room – at the rear of the building's front block. The bathrooms retain the original tile floors, radiators, wood doors, three vertical-light hopper transoms, and wood stall surrounds.

The second floor has a similar layout as the first floor. There is a central foyer and a transverse east-west hall with offices located on either side of the hall. The rear ell encompasses a conference room, two bathrooms, and a small kitchen. The floors at this level are carpeted and there is a dropped acoustical tile ceiling. The original six-panel wood doors, plaster walls, baseboards, and window and door surrounds remain intact.

Currently, the basement level is primarily used for storage space. Steps descend from the front foyer of the first level to the basement. The open string stair runs along the basement wall and is protected on one side by a balustrade with a molded handrail and lower rail, as well as a single chamfered wood baluster and a similar newel post. Four rooms are located on the east side of the main block and three rooms are positioned on the west side. The rear ell contains two storage rooms, a boiler room, and two restrooms. The basement has concrete floors, flush, horizontal wood paneling and plaster walls, exposed pipes, and fluorescent lighting. Interior basement doors include a wood door comprised of vertical boards, several doors with three horizontal panels surmounted by a single light, and a door with five horizontal panels.

Integrity Statement

The 1937 Robeson County Agricultural Building has maintained an impressive and prominent presence on the corner of Elm and Eighth streets in downtown Lumberton for seventy-five years. The building retains the majority of its original architectural features along with its original form, layout, and building materials. The classical round-arched windows with tracery and keystones are intact. Window air conditioning units, inserted in some of the windows, are a reversible and planned change. Although the front entrance has been altered, the substituted flanking pilasters are very similar to the original door surround. The replacement of the original wood paneled entrance doors with metal and glass doors and the addition of a hood over the door, are also reversible changes. The door on the rear ell's east side could also be replaced with a door that would more closely match the original door. The addition of the handicap ramp was necessary to bring the building up to code and does not substantially detract from the historic appearance of the building.

The interior of the building retains its original floor plan. Much of the interior fabric is remarkably intact including the original interior paneled wood doors with functional transoms, steam radiators, wide baseboards, wainscoting, window surrounds, plaster walls, and central staircase. Changes that can be reversed include removing carpeting that covers some of the original wood floors and removing the acoustical tile ceiling to reveal the original high ceilings.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located in Lumberton, the county seat of Robeson County, the Robeson County Agricultural Building is situated on a level one-acre lot on the northern edge of the commercial center of the city. The 1937 two-story brick building on a raised basement is locally significant under Criterion C as an intact example of a Colonial Revival-style government building designed by Thomas C. Atwood and Howard Raymond Weeks and constructed by the Works Progress Administration at the height of the Great Depression. The Robeson County Agricultural Building retains excellent integrity and is one of the few examples of the Colonial Revival style in Lumberton. The building reflects the nationalistic view and building preferences taken on by the American population following the end of World War I in both domestic and public buildings. Defining elements of the Colonial Revival style evident on the 1937 building include its symmetrical façade and hipped roof, the double-hung, round arched windows with tracery and keystones, and the central front door flanked by pilasters. The period of significance is 1937, the year the building was constructed.

Historical Background

Agriculture has sustained the economy of Robeson County since its inception in 1786 and the goods produced by the local farmers found ready markets down the Lumber River, or in later years, over the rails to new towns in the mountains where the Wilmington, Charlotte, and Rutherfordton rail line had extended by the 1860s. The principal crop was cotton, although corn, rice, and sweet potatoes were also important products. The Civil War bankrupted most industries in North Carolina, including agriculture. During this time period, most people in the state still lived on farms that were dependent on human and animal labor (Leary, p. 5).

The drop in crop prices after the Civil War led to wide-spread destructive cutting of second and third growth forests throughout the state. Robeson County's many acres of forest, most notably the long leaf yellow pine, harvested between the end of the war and the early 1900s produced lumber, shingles, and naval store products such as oil and turpentine. Additional havoc to the land was wrought during this time period by the practice of draining swamps to create new farmland for the growth of tobacco. Robeson County formed an agricultural club as early as 1868, a forerunner to the North Carolina Department of Agriculture which was established in 1877. The club was instrumental in teaching farmers how to improve their land and to compensate not only for the destructive timber cutting and swamp draining, but also for the heavy toll the growth of cotton extracted from the soil (Leary, p. 5).

By the mid-1930s, the United States was still struggling with effects of the Great Depression. The rural pattern for North Carolina was small farms, poverty, and a very poor standard of living. Many of the rural families were tenant farmers and sharecroppers. The

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average daily income for a member of a sharecropping family was nine cents as farm prices dropped severely in the 1930s. For the state and the nation, the outlook for agriculture in the twenties and thirties was grim—the land had been depleted and severe soil erosion was common. The role of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture took on new importance during this time period (Lily, www.ncagr.gov/stats/general/history.htm, p. 5).

President Roosevelt and Congress dramatically increased funds for helping the unemployed by creating the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in 1935, an agency that put 3.5 million people to work nationally with a budget of almost five billion dollars. Although the WPA was created as a federal agency, each state hired a director to oversee projects in its own state. Between 1935 and 1940, the WPA in North Carolina, headed by George Coan, employed 125,000 men and women of all races, completed 3,984 projects, and touched the lives of nearly everyone in the state (<http://ncpedia.org/history/20th-Century/wpa>).

The state elected to allocate some of the available WPA funds to build a new Agriculture Building in Lumberton, the centrally located county seat of rural Robeson County. The county commissioners hired North Carolina architects, Howard Raymond Weeks and Thomas C. Atwood (Atwood & Weeks) to design the new building (Robeson County Board of Commissioner meeting notes dated 28 Jul 1936).

Atwood and Weeks practiced together in North Carolina from the early 1930s through 1942. Although their firm was based in Durham, they planned and designed many major buildings throughout the state. Atwood had trained as an engineer, while Weeks was an architect and a member of AIA from 1938 until his death in 1956. Their projects include, among others, the 1928 Mission Revival-style exhibit halls designed for the North Carolina State Fair in Raleigh and the 1935 Gothic Revival-style West Durham Baptist Church in Durham, as well as the 1935 Gothic Revival-style National Guard Armory and the 1939 Beaux-Arts-style United States Post Office, both WPA projects located in Durham. They also collaborated on the design of many homes in upscale early to mid-twentieth century neighborhoods in Durham and Raleigh. Atwood sold his share of the business to Weeks in 1942 and the firm then became known as H. R. Weeks & Associates (<http://www.trianglemodernisthouses.com/durham.htm>).

At a meeting held on July 28, 1936, the County Commissioners met in Lumberton and authorized the county manager to advise R. D. Caldwell, WPA Supervisor, to proceed with plans for construction of the Agricultural Building. The notes from the meeting recorded: “the firm of Atwood and Weeks, architects, is employed to draw plans and specifications for the Agricultural Building.” Robeson County had purchased a one-acre lot, previously owned by the Townsend family, on October 21, 1929, at public auction for a price of \$11,000. The land, referred to as Lot No. 690 according to the plan of the Town of Lumberton and recorded in Map Book #1, page 16, is bounded on the south by Eighth Street, on the north by Ninth Street, on the east by

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Elm Street, and on the west by the property of L. J. Britt and Mrs. H. C. Freeman (Deed Book 7-Z, p. 442).

Although the County Commissioners had originally planned to place the building on a city-owned lot, by August 3, 1936 they had decided to build it instead on the one-acre Townsend property lot. The motion recorded in the Board of Commissioner minutes reads: "On motion it is ordered that the County Manager work with the WPA officials to the end that the Agricultural Building be constructed on the Townsend property now owned by Robeson County, Eighth Street, Lumberton, NC, rather than on City property near the Town Hall" (Robeson County Board of Commissioner meeting notes dated 3 Aug. 1936).

On November 11, 1936, the front page of *The Robesonian* depicts a drawing of the new Agricultural Building currently under construction. The caption under the drawing reads:

Above is shown an architect's drawing of the new Robeson County Agricultural Building being erected at Lumberton by the Works Progress Administration. The building has been characterized by Robert D. Caldwell, director of the fourth WPA district, as the largest and most pretentious in the State. The completed structure will cost \$32,289 of which the county is contributing \$11,423. An average of fifty men from relief rolls will be given work while the project is in operation.

The completed Agricultural Building has served Robeson County and the city of Lumberton for many years, initially as a headquarters for the Robeson County Department of Agriculture. In later years, it housed the City of Lumberton Public Schools Superintendent, the Robeson County Extension Center, the Community Services Department, the Farm Service Agency, the Radio Amateurs, the American Red Cross, the Public Health Office, and the Department of Social Services. In addition, the Robeson County government has used it as a fallout shelter, as needed. Currently, the Guardian Ad Litem, and the Robeson County Wellness Department occupy the building (Keane interview with Millicent Collins, 16 May 2011).

Context – Criterion C, Architecture

Following on the heels of America's Centennial celebrations, the Colonial Revival style emerged in the early 1880s. The style, based on early American architecture, particularly Georgian and Federal buildings, was largely an outgrowth of a new pride in America's past. Among the leaders of the movement were the partners at McKim, Mead, and White who had made a tour of New England's historic towns in 1878 and began designing buildings inspired by the original late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century Federal and Georgian buildings. The

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style took off in the 1890s at the time that “manifest destiny” was at its peak, when Americans began to value their own architecture and heritage. Interest in Victorian architecture was beginning to wane as Americans sought architecture that reflected American values and traditions (McAlester, p. 326).

Like most revival efforts, the Colonial Revival style did not generally produce true copies of earlier styles. It was common to combine architectural details of the earlier styles--front façade symmetry, front entrance fanlights and sidelights, Palladian windows, pedimented doorways, porches and dormers—and apply them to larger scale buildings. The Colonial Revival style became very popular for public buildings including government offices, post offices, libraries, banks, schools and churches (McAlester, p. 326).

Many WPA buildings were constructed in the Colonial Revival style by architects hired to work for the agency during the 1930s and early 1940s. The Colonial Revival style was often used in public buildings owned by the United States government because of the inherent feeling of a nationalistic sentiment and a desire to have in America an American style distinct from the European modes. Also, because the Colonial Revival style was based on simple, classical, and versatile shapes, the style could be easily modified into many different types of buildings. The most consistent Colonial Revival elements found in these buildings are building symmetry, hipped roofs that often intersected one another, the use of a single, decorative fan or Palladian window located high-up in the gable or pediment, double-hung windows with decorative features like thick concrete sills or curved, segmental arches overhead, thin columns or pilasters with simple capitals, and pronounced front porches (Rhoads, p. 194).

The Robeson County Agriculture Building, built in 1937, was one of the earlier WPA projects authorized in North Carolina. Constructed in the Colonial Revival style, the impressive two-story brick building sits on a raised basement with a pronounced water table. The symmetrical façade features round-arched windows and central door with keystones at the first level and eight-over-eight, double-hung, sash windows with keystones at the second level. These features, along with the hipped roof and a wide cornice band, are typical of the Colonial Revival style for public buildings.

The interior of the building also reflects the Colonial Revival style by the symmetry of the floor plan which includes a spacious entry hall with a handsome wide staircase and offices arranged along a long, double-loaded corridor. A large assembly room is located in the rear wing on the first floor, while additional conference space, a kitchenette, and bathrooms are located in the rear wing on the second floor. As originally built, the first floor featured exceptionally high ceilings and the large windows flooded the interior with light. The public

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areas of the building exhibit wainscoting, wide baseboards topped by a running cyma reversa mold, a chair rail, and six-panel wood doors surmounted by operable glazed transoms.

The Robeson County Agricultural Building is one of only two public buildings in downtown Lumberton constructed in the Colonial Revival style. The (former) Lumberton Municipal Building, located at 112 North Elm Street, was erected by the City of Lumberton in 1917 in the Colonial Revival style. The two-story brick building with a hipped roof and tall chimneys features Colonial Revival design features in the symmetrical disposition of elements, the modillion cornice, the elaborate main entrance, and the cupola at the crest of the roof (Leary, p. 19).

The Colonial Revival style also became a popular style for residences in Lumberton during the early twentieth century. A good example is the ca. 1920 Linkhaw House located at 202 East Seventh Street. The two-story, side-gable brick house exhibits characteristic features of the style including a symmetrical façade, a modillion cornice, a Tuscan-columned entrance porch, and a leaded fanlight over the main entrance (Leary, p. 19).

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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**Continuation Sheet
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**Robeson County Agricultural Building
Robeson County, NC**

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated parcel consists of one acre situated on the southwest corner of West Eighth and Elm streets. The boundary is delineated by the heavy line on the attached Robeson County tax map for the Robeson County Agricultural Building (Parcel 323202021), at a scale of 1 inch equals 200 feet.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the one-acre parcel historically associated with the Robeson County Agricultural Building and provides an appropriate setting.